

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-02 SEC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02

TRSE-00 EB-07 SCA-01 /069 W  
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R 131458Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9613

INFO DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 1041

JUSTICE PASS TO U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, SOUTHERN DISTRICT, NY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS

SUBJECT: TAXES WILL APPARENTLY BE PAID ON  
VESCO'S YACHT (IF LOCATED)

REF: SAN JOSE 0984

1. ACCORDING TO "LA REPUBLICA" OF MARCH 12, THE  
DIRECTOR OF THE CUSTOMS BUREAU WILL NAME A GROUP OF  
EXPERTS TO DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF TAXES WHICH WILL  
BE CHARGED ON ROBERT VESCO'S YACHT "JOYA POCO."  
THE STUDY IS ALLEGEDLY BASED ON A RESOLUTION TAKEN  
BY CUSTOMS ON MARCH 3 WHICH ANNULLED ANY SPECIAL  
PERMISSION WHICH THE YACHT HAD AND ORDERED ITS  
SEIZURE IN ORDER THAT IT COMPLY WITH CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.  
THE DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMS REPORTEDLY CLAIMED THE  
RESOLUTION WAS DECIDED BEFORE THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL  
SENT HIS LETTER CRITICIZING THE NEGLIGENCE  
OF CUSTOMS OFFICIALS IN THIS CASE (SEE REFTEL).

2. THE EXPERTS REPORTEDLY ARE EXPECTED TO  
MAINTAIN THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL'S POSITION  
THAT THE YACHT HAS BEEN IN COSTA RICA  
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CONTINUOUSLY SINCE AUGUST AND THAT, EVEN

APPLYING THE 1968 LAW, THE YACHT HAS BEEN  
ALLEGEDLY IN COSTA RICA FOR MORE THAN 90 DAYS.

3. THE GROUP OF EXPERTS THAT WILL DETERMINE  
THE YACHT'S MARKET VALUE FOR TAX PURPOSES WILL HAVE  
TO WAIT UNTIL THE YACHT IS PHYSICALLY LOCATED  
AND REPORTEDLY THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY  
HAS BEEN ASKED BY CUSTOMS TO ASSIST IN THIS  
ENDEAVOR. ACCORDING TO "LA REPUBLICA" NO ONE  
KNOWS WHERE IT IS AT THE MOMENT, EVEN THOUGH  
REPRESENTATIVES OF "VINLEX, S.A.", ALLEGED OWNERS  
OF THE "JOYA POCO", HAVE CLAIMED THEY WILL  
PRESENT THE YACHT FOR PAYMENT OF TAXES.

4. "LA NACION" IN AN EDITORIAL OF MARCH 12  
ENTITLED "THE STRANGE SEMANTICS OF PRESIDENT ODUBER,"  
TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE "JOYA POCO" INCIDENT TO ONCE  
AGAIN CRITICIZE PRESIDENT ODUBER'S ALLEGED PROTECTION OF  
VESCO. REFERRING BACK TO ODUBER'S DECEMBER  
STATEMENT THAT VESCO WOULD BE THROWN OUT OF  
COSTA RICA IF HE VIOLATED COSTA RICAN LAWS,  
THE EDITORIAL ARGUES THAT THE TAX EVASION OF THE "JOYA POCO"  
SHOULD BE ALL THE PROOF ODUBER NEEDS. THE EDITORIAL CONTINUES,  
"..THIS PLACES IN RELIEF THE NEW LANGUAGE...OF A GOVERNMENT  
WHOSE (POLITICAL) PARTY IS SERIOUSLY COMPROMISED IN  
IRREGULAR SITUATIONS THAT IT CANNOT ESCAPE FROM...AND THAT  
OBLIGE IT TO CHANGE THE MEANING OF WORDS IN ORDER TO  
HANDLE THE PRESSURE OF PUBLIC OPINION".  
TODMAN

NOTE BY OCT: SAN JOSE 1041 NOT PASSED ABOVE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SHIPS, PRESS COMMENTS, CUSTOMS DUTIES, JOYA POCA, STUDIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 SAN JOSE 0984  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CollinP0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 JUN 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2004 by CollinP0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TAXES WILL APPARENTLY BE PAID ON VESCO'S YACHT (IF LOCATED)  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PGOV, CS, (VESCO, ROBERT)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006